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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by ANO "Organization" "Vector of Friendship", a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31:

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Social innovations and human rights to development

Honorable members of Secretariat and delegates,

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the 38th session of the Human Rights Council. On behalf of the ECOSOC NGO in special consultative status – ANO «Organization «Vector of Friendship» we would like to express sincerely congratulations to all global community in relation to the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The provisions of Declaration are established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, ANO «Organization «Vector of Friendship» has been organizing and conducting an annual International conferences #INFOCUS dedicated to volunteerism development and social transformation at the United Nations Library at Geneva. More than 850 international participants from 50 countries of the world attended the international event.

The Conference is focused on social and economic development, volunteerism, protection of human rights, building the inclusive society, supporting the children and youth initiatives to transform our planet, contribution of NGOs and private sector into the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, interaction of NGOs with authorities and international organizations, development of public diplomacy, etc.

Taking into account the relevant topics and experiences of civil society services from different countries, the lack of tools and opportunities for children and youth development was identified in CIS countries and overseas as well as the access to services and resources for them.

In order to empower children and youth, to fulfill their potential and rights to development the International Youth Network of Social Innovators #INFOCUS was launched in 2018.

International Youth Network #INFOCUS is an Internet-based platform which helps children and youth to implement their rights to development. With the projects which transform the local community and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the participants and the experts of #INFOCUS extend the rights to assess different resources for the inhabitants living in the areas with low accessibility.

Thus, on-line platform provides an opportunity both to fulfill the potential, to launch a start-up, to increase tolerance level and to nurture the generation of cosmopolitans who develop an inclusive society. The Network defines the leaders of local communities from different countries, who represent the interests and needs of their micro environment. The participants are ready to protect the rights of the vulnerable inhabitants by implementing their socially important projects.

Within the International Network the youth teams from different corners of the world interact, share their ideas and practices in volunteerism, in human rights protection in their fight to tackle the problem of climate change and in other areas defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Internet-platform #INFOCUS is an effective tool to achieve SDGs. This is the tool, which helps children and youth use their rights to development. Here are some projects from the on-line platform #INFOCUS:

1) Team from the Russian Federation, Goal 4.

The team implements a project «We discover the world by playing». The aim of the project is to improve the quality of modern education by introducing a set of practical lessons for the juniors in educational organizations. These lessons develop logical thinking and creativity, train special imagination, social design and modeling in the juniors who apply theory from the general subjects and train practical skills.

2) Team from Lebanon, Goal 14.

The team gives lessons in Water Resources and Water Protection. During the lessons they experiment with water and sugar, the school students draw their own signs and create posters which say about a ban on water pollution to make other people aware of the problem.

3) Team from Russia, Goals 6, 13

The team reads a lecture called «3R: reduce, reuse, recycle». The team is divided into groups that explore the city to identify the environment concerns. Then they prepare a photo report, compile a list of recommendations to solve these problems. The team gives open lessons devoted to drinking water conservation problem.

4) Team from Greece, Goals 3, 17

The team has a campaign «Lessons of Kindness» where the participants collect the food and clothes for the needy, they organize the lessons devoted to healthy lifestyle. Press-Conference «17 Sustainable Development Goals» was one of the team's projects.

It is important to note here that the Network includes international experts-tutors: human rights advocates, NGO representatives, social entrepreneurs, informal education leaders, business trainers, public leaders, and others who are ready to consult, to inform, to provide resources, and other support in implementation of the socially important projects.

Young leaders-innovators develop the projects in close collaboration with the experts. The best projects are then presented to the world community in the United Nations at the annual International Conference #INFOCUS.

It is here where the young leaders are given an excellent chance to chat face to face with the experts-practitioners, diplomats, stars, cultural and public international leaders, to establish strong partnership relations for their personal growth and for further implementation of the projects.

In the Network #INFOCUS the gained experience is analyzed, the teams summarize their projects to see the results, they prepare and present their reports. The experts-tutors rate the projects in terms of their implementation, team activities.

The projects done by the team-winners are recommended to be translated in different parts of the world. Introduction of the teams from different countries into the platform extends the possibilities to translate the technologies and projects in a social area.

Today 26 countries, including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russia, Czech Republic, Qatar, Mauritius, Sri-Lanka, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece, etc. have applied for the project.

In the Network #INFOCUS young innovators are given the right to speak about themselves and to show how their team impacts global challenges, how they transform the society for the sake of sustainable development and providing the rights to everyone on this Planet.

The project contributes into stronger integration of children and youth into local communities, provides the possibilities for decision making which changes the world, solves public problems. The Network #INFOCUS also develops the collaboration between the human rights advocates and volunteering organizations from different countries, enhances the cooperation within the expert community in implementing the socially significant initiatives, extends the possibilities for children and youth to be involved into the UN Agenda.

The International Network of Social Innovators #INFOCUS reduces inequality in all its manifestations by providing the rights to development to every member. The system develops reliable partnership relations between the teams, as well as gives the chance to present relevant projects on the international sites, to promote the interests of the vulnerable inhabitants.

We strongly believe that to develop this Network and to involve as many participant and experts from different countries as possible means to contribute into the sustainable development of the world and to achieve SDGs by increasing awareness among population and by particular actions. This is a successful step towards human rights extension in social, economic and cultural areas. Together with the community development and transformation we can build an inclusive society to leave no one behind, to nurture responsible global citizens who can set an example to inspire others and make a difference. Only together, we will let the world hear the voices of millions.

Join the global project to achieve Global Goals and make the world a better place right now:
www.infocusglobalgoals.net